matters. No memorandum has, however, been received in this connection.

Closure of Sick Units of HFCL and FCI

371. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down three sick units of the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the financial status of these units, the number of employees employed in each of these units and the amount due to these employees by way of arrears of wages and alongwith other statutory dues; and

(c) the steps being taken to pay these arrears and the compensation proposed to be paid, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to close down Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organisation.

(b) and (c) The accumulated losses of HFCL and FCI as on 31.3.2002 were Rs. 6725.88 crore and Rs. 7921.00 crore and a manpower of 4884 and 5712 as on 30.9.2002, respectively. The Government has been providing budgetary support to these companies for meeting the expenditure on salary/wages including statutory dues of their employees. The employees of these companies have been offered benefits under the Voluntary Separation Scheme.